

His son was the roommate of Rudy Ruettiger, whose drive to play football for Notre Dame resulted in the movie, "Rudy."

"I knew Rudy really well, in fact he still visits Bo a lot and stays at our house in Los Angeles when he's down there," Potter said.

Still, to many in North Idaho, Bob Potter is Mr. Job Plus.

The two seem synonymous.

But a parting might not be far off.

Potter says he can't continue forever in the \$60,000-a-year-job—the same as when he started in 1987.

"I am 74 years old. Sooner or later, the Jobs Plus board of directors is going to have to face up to the fact that we're going to have to take Jobs Plus into the next phase."

That phase will lead to Jobs Plus II.

"We've been doing this with mirrors. Our costs are stable and low. I don't need a medical plan (he has one already). I've never taken a raise. Jobs Plus II isn't going to be that fortunate. Those days are going to be over, probably in the next transition. It's going to cost us more to run Jobs Plus in the future than it is now."

So Potter, as usual, has a plan.

He'll make a presentation to Kootenai County Commissioners Tuesday that the county should—like the cities of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Rathdrum and Post Falls and about 100 other businesses—support Jobs Plus, which operates on a modest budget of \$200,000.

That, Potter said, is far less than what similar organizations in other areas work with.

"The county hasn't had to invest in to produce the millions of dollars that we've created in property tax. We feel that Jobs Plus is an investment and we can prove it because we've got the numbers."

Potter was born in Utah. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in political science.

For 35 years, he worked his way up the corporate ladder with the Bell system, AT&T, eventually becoming vice president of sales for the western region.

When Potter quit and moved to North Idaho and bought a home on Hayden Lake, the economy was struggling.

Community business leaders including Jacklin Land Company, then Washington Water Power, Dennis Wheeler from Coeur d'Alene Mines, and Duane Hagadone, at the time were in the midst of raising \$1 million for a four-year program that would focus on expanding the area's economy and employment base.

After interviewing hundreds of candidates from across the nation, they found no one they believed right for the job.

Then, a headhunter suggested the person they were looking for was in their own back yard.

He was.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TINA SANDOVAL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a truly dedicated teacher from Pueblo, Colorado, Ms. Tina Sandoval. Tina has spent countless hours helping others understand and succeed in their academic endeavors at Pueblo Community College. She has gone far beyond what is expected in the classroom and

touched the lives of many of her students in such a profound way that she was recently named Pueblo Community College Teacher of the Year.

Although Tina has always been passionate about teaching mathematics, her real love is working with people. Originally from Walsenburg, Colorado, Tina was drawn to teaching after seeing the impact teachers had on students' lives. Tina set out to obtain her education and went on to receive both her Bachelors and Masters Degree from Regis College. After a brief career in accounting, Tina found that she missed working with people and decided to become a teacher. Her dedication and commitment paid off and today she is responsible for touching the lives of many who have passed through her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Tina for her service to her community and especially to the students whose lives she has changed. The diligence and commitment demonstrated by Tina certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. Tina's achievements as a teacher serve as a symbol to other teachers throughout Colorado. The honor of the Teacher of the Year is proof that hard work and persistence can lead to success in achieving your goals. It is people like Tina Sandoval that ensure our future generations are guaranteed the opportunity to improve their lives through a quality education. Congratulations Tina, and thank you for all of your hard work!

COMMENDING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICINE AND ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BY THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION—AMERICARES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week, the humanitarian and relief organization, AmeriCares, delivered a cargo plane's worth of medicine and food to the very needy people of Afghanistan. Some 79,400 pounds of donated medical supplies and food was delivered for the sick and starving men, women and children in Afghanistan.

The supplies range from basic antibiotics, analgesics and bandages to nutritional supplements, flour and cooking oil.

So many have suffered in Afghanistan. A staggering number are dying or have contracted disease because of malnutrition. AmeriCares' shipment of food and medical supplies will help save thousands of lives.

Under the leadership of founder Bob Macauley, AmeriCares provides immediate response to emergency medical needs—and supports long-term health care programs—for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion.

AmeriCares solicits donations of medicines, medical supplies and other relief materials from U.S. and international manufacturers and delivers them quickly and efficiently to indigenous health care and welfare professionals in 137 countries. Since its inception in 1982, AmeriCares has delivered more than \$2.9 billion worth of life-saving supplies to those in need.

I commend the staff of AmeriCares for their hard work in bringing much needed food and medical supplies to the suffering people of Afghanistan.

CARE 21

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore our Nation's historic commitment to insuring lifetime health care for retired coal miners. Joining me in introducing this bill is the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, BOB NEY.

Enactment this year of CARE 21, the "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century," is necessary if we are to avoid seeing a curtailment in health care coverage for thousands of retired coal miners and their widows. Indeed, this would not be the first time that Congress has acted in this matter. In 1992, in what is known as the "Coal Act" enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act, Congress established the UMW Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) combining the union's 1950 and 1974 benefit plans. This action came in response to changes in the coal industry which created a large class of "orphaned" miners whose benefits were no longer being paid by an active coal company. A key feature of the Coal Act was the financing of orphaned miner health care costs through an annual transfer of a portion of the interest which accrues to the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Simply put, in restoring abandoned coal mine lands we must not abandon the retired coal miner.

The Coal Act was working well, health care for retirees whose former employers could be identified would be financed by premiums paid by those companies while providing for a transfer of reclamation fund interest to finance orphaned miner care.

However, a barrage of litigation and adverse court decisions once again is threatening the financial integrity of the program. Among them, what is known as the "Chater" decision which overturned the Social Security Administration's premium determination reducing premiums by 10 percent. Another court decision ordered the CBF to refund about \$40 million in contributions. And the Supreme Court has rendered two especially harsh decisions; in the Eastern Enterprise case adding some 8,000 retirees to the orphaned miner rolls and just last week ruling that successor companies to signatories of the national wage agreement are not responsible to continue paying premiums for former employees. The result: Without a new source of funds, the CBF will face a cash shortage most likely beginning at the end of this year which could force curtailments in health care coverage for some 50,000 retirees and widows whose average age is 78.

CARE 21 takes a relatively simple and straightforward approach to addressing this impending crisis: It would lift the restriction in current law that reclamation fund interest can only be used for orphaned miner health care. Rather, it would allow AML interest transfers to be made for the purpose of offsetting any deficit in net assets in the CBF.